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Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 17 November 2014

[on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2014/15/Add.1/Rev.1)]

2014/32. Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption on 9 May 2014 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, of resolution 682 (XXXV), entitled "Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean",

Endorses the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 682 (XXXV) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
17 November 2014

Annex

Resolution 682 (XXXV)

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Please recycle

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[1] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[2] and other relevant internationally agreed instruments constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit[4] and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] and the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[6]

Bearing in mind that the year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been cooperating systematically in the field of social development to facilitate inter-agency coordination among the countries of the region, international organizations and the national agencies charged with carrying out projects to promote social development,

Considering also the key role played by the Commission in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and thus in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to social development and to policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,

Taking into account the need to promote cooperation in the sphere of social development,

Having reviewed the proposal for the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the proposed nature and the objectives of the Conference, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution,

1. *Approves* the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the objectives of which are set forth in the annex to the present resolution, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, bearing in mind the observations and suggestions included in the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session, with a view to eradicating poverty in the region and promoting decent work, equality and social inclusion;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid, annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 68/6.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Conference to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

3. *Decides* to convene the first meeting of the Conference during the second half of 2015;

4. *Takes note* of the fact that the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico on 30 and 31 October 2014 and will be a discussion platform for promoting inclusive social development in the region;

5. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Peru to host the first meeting of the Conference;

6. *Invites* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to join this initiative;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

Annex to resolution 682 (XXXV)

I. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

1. The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the countries of the region.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Conference shall be:

(*a*) To promote the improvement of national policies on social development, bearing in mind national requirements and recommendations made by specialized agencies and other relevant organizations;

(*b*) To further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and institutions and international and regional agencies to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of social development;

(*c*) To examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on the measurement of poverty, inequality and structural gaps, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

(*d*) To exchange experiences in relation to social matters and support and provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums;

(*e*) To contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Membership

3. The States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be members of the Conference.

Meetings of the Conference

4. The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every two years. The Conference may accept an invitation from the Government of a member State to hold its regular meeting in that country.

Presiding Officers

5. The Conference shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

Secretariat

6. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents as have been approved by the Commission and the facilities necessary to carry out its work.

II. Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

7. The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above.

Composition

8. The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and six members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Commission. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

Election of the Presiding Officers and duration of mandates

9. At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

10. The newly elected Presiding Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected, and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

11. The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

12. The members of the Presiding Officers may serve for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected to serve as one of the Presiding Officers.

13. A Presiding Officer who has served for three successive terms may not be re-elected until two years have elapsed since the end of his or her previous mandate.

Duties

14. The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

(*a*) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(*b*) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(*c*) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

Meetings

15. The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular meetings of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the next meeting of the Conference, the Presiding Officers shall adopt a programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted to the Conference at its regular meeting.

16. The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.